

published; to have made this distinction, in the case even of only the rarer species, would of course have considerably increased the size of the book, and for this reason may have been omitted, but the omission is an inconvenience to the worker in search of the historical sequence of records. In brief, Mr. Knight has given us such a good book on the Birds of Maine that we regret to find it not an entirely up-to-date authority on Maine ornithology.—J. A. A.

**Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels.'**<sup>1</sup>—Part III of this excellent Monograph<sup>1</sup> contains descriptions of 29 species, of which 27 are figured. Twenty-three of the species belong to the genus *Æstrelata*, of which three appear to be known only from the original types. *Priofinus gelidus* of recent authors (ex *Procelaria gelida* Gmelin) is apparently referred to *Puffinus kuhli*, the author recognizing only one species of *Priofinus*, and correcting the faulty synonymy given by Salvin.

The species treated in the present Part are many of them little known in life, so that nothing can be said of their habits and distribution. As in the previous Parts of this work, the biographies of the well-known species are given at considerable length, as is the general history.—J. A. A.

**Gadow's 'Through Southern Mexico.'**<sup>2</sup>—Dr. Gadow's account of his travels in southern Mexico is not to any great extent ornithological, the reptiles and general character of the country visited being the principal theme. The work is well written and thoroughly interesting from beginning to end, the author's style being terse and graphic, and the subjects treated include the physiographic features of the country and their relation to the fauna and flora, its present and former human population, with descriptions of the celebrated ruins of Tepoztlan, Milta, and Monte Alban, a discussion of the 'Toltec question,' the Aztec hieroglyphs, and the calendric system. The author made many excursions to out of the way places reached only by pack trains, his explorations including the low coastlands, the interior plateau, and the Volcanoes of Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl. Interspersed with interesting incidents of travel are discussions of the effect of environment upon animals and plants, colors and patterns, convergent development, the struggle for existence, 'warning' colors, and adaptive modifications. The information regarding the general character of the country and its varied inhabitants, human, animal and vegetable, is varied and explicit, and one can hardly turn to a better book for information regarding southern Mexico. The numerous illustrations relate to a great variety of subjects and are valuable adjuncts to the text.—J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> Part III, pp. 153-232, plates 1-lxxviii. September, 1908. For notices of previous Parts see Auk, XXV, 1908, pp. 244, 338.

<sup>2</sup> Through Southern | Mexico | being an account of | the travels of a Naturalist | By | Hans Gadow | M. A., Ph.D. | F. R. S. | With over one hundred and sixty full page and other | illustrations and maps | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn London | 1908 — 8vo, pp. xvi + 527, maps, numerous half-tone plates and text figures.